

# New Jersey Agricultural Statistics Service

*a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service  
United States Department of Agriculture*



Rm 205 Health and Agriculture Bldg.  
P.O. Box 330  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Phone: (800)328-0179  
Fax: (800)625-7581  
[nass-nj@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-nj@nass.usda.gov)



## 2003 BLUEBERRY STATISTICS

The 2003 growing season was very wet. Frequent rains and heavy cloud cover during late spring and early summer delayed development of blueberries to their marketable size and quality. The blueberry crop's bloom set was average. Rain continuing into the summer months also delayed harvest. In spite of weather challenges during the growing season, production and price were both good.

The total value of the 2003 blueberry crop was \$45.7 million, the second highest amount on record. Utilized production, at 40.0 million pounds, decreased 2 percent from 2002. The overall season average price was \$1.14 per pound, the highest price ever recorded for New Jersey. The average fresh market price was \$1.20 per pound, while the processing price was \$0.87 per pound.

The area harvested, at 7,500 acres, increased 100 acres from a year earlier. The state average yield per acre was 5,330 pounds, compared with 5,680 pounds per acre in 2002.

Atlantic and Burlington Counties accounted for 96 percent of the area harvested and 99 percent of New Jersey's utilized production. The top blueberry producing county in New Jersey was Atlantic County, with 5,900 acres harvested and an average yield of 5,970 pounds per acre. Utilized production for Atlantic County was 35.2 million pounds. Burlington County producers harvested 1,300 acres with an average yield of 3,380 pounds per acre and utilized production of 4.4 million pounds.

Becky Cross  
State Statistician  
NJ Agricultural Statistics Services

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